

Colorado Secretary of State

NVRA Agency-Based Voter Registration – Aug. 5, 2009
Denver, CO



Voter Registration for Agencies that Provide
Public Assistance and/or Serve Persons with
Disabilities

National Voter Registration Act of 1993

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What is NVRA?

The National Voter Registration Act Of 1993

Congress enacted the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (also known as the "NVRA" and the "Motor Voter Act"), 42 U.S.C. 1973gg 5(a), (b), to enhance voting opportunities for every American and to remove the vestiges of discrimination which have historically resulted in lower voter registration rates of minorities and persons with disabilities.

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The NVRA requires states to provide:

"Motor Voter" Registration (voter registration simultaneous with motor vehicle driver's license application or renewal)

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Agency-based Voter Registration-

- Voter registration opportunities must be offered at each agency that:
 - Provides public assistance (including food stamps, Medicare and Medicaid, WIC, and Colorado Works/unemployment assistance)
 - Provides state-funded programs primarily for persons with disabilities
 - Armed Forces recruitment offices
- Other federal, state, local government, or nongovernment offices may choose to provide voter registration services

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- Voter registration must be offered
 - Upon initial request for services
 - At service renewal, and
 - Upon an address change
- Agencies can order forms online through the SOS

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CRS §1-2-506

Violations and Prohibitions

- Agency staff who offer persons an opportunity to register to vote shall not:
 - Influence an applicant's political preference or party registration.
 - Display any political preference or party allegiance.
 - Discourage an applicant to register.

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The NVRA Connection

- Information Sent by the Secretary of State to Agencies includes:
 - updates to the State Agencies, as needed, for distribution to local offices
 - email reminders for reporting
 - election dates and registration cutoff dates
 - Links for reporting statistics

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Processing Completed VR Applications

- Each person must be provided the same degree of assistance as is provided to complete agency forms, unless the person refuses such assistance.
- If the agency receives an incomplete form, they must forward it to the county clerk.

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Processing Completed VR Applications

- The agency must keep the declination in their office for 24 months.
- Declination forms should be tallied by agency as to how many persons wished to register, how many wished to change their address, and how many declined registration.

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Processing Completed VR Applications

- Completed voter registration applications sent to the county clerk within 10 calendar days of receipt.
 - Exception: Within 5 days of the last day to register to vote, applications must be submitted to the county no later than 5 days of receipt.

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Agency Voter Registration Reporting

- How does an agency report voter registration activity?
 - The Secretary of State has developed an online reporting tool/survey that each agency will complete on a regular basis.
 - The survey is emailed to the contact person of every agency on file with the SOS
 - The contact person completes the survey twice monthly
 - SOS and/or state agency contacts local agencies that do not respond
 - SOS compiles information and reports to the EAC and other interested parties

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Compliance Progress

- Project Vote inquiry December 2007
- SOS developed
 - PowerPoint for Training
 - Survey Monkey reporting
 - posters
 - hosted several trainings
 - Webpage for agency use
- Worked with county clerks to ensure proper coding in forms
- Continued outreach to agencies

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- Available Tools and Information
 - Webpage for agency use
 - FAQs
 - PowerPoint for training
 - Laws and Rules
 - Posters
 - Online form ordering
 - First Annual Report on compliance
 - Agency Implementation guide nearing completion

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- **Future Goals**

- Best Practices and Recommendations
- Web-based training for agency staff
- Online voter registration and tracking
- Annual review of compliance
- Improvements to content and efficiencies for the reporting tool
- Establishing community partnerships to bring awareness to voter registration opportunities

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Questions?

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